



## Award Winning History, Biography and Travel Books: A Selected List



### Booksense Book of the Year

2003

#### **Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: an African Childhood**

Fuller, Alexandra 968.9104 F

A white African girl's childhood during the Rhodesian Civil War (1971-1979) at which time the country of Zimbabwe was created.

2004

#### **Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books**

Nafisi, Azar B Nafisi Large Print B Nafisi

In revolutionary Iran, seven female students meet secretly at their professor's house to study great works of Western literature.

2005

#### **Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II**

Kurson, Robert 940.5451 K Large Print 940.5451 K

Two deep-sea wreck divers discover a World War II U-boat off the coast of New Jersey and spend seven years looking for the boat's identity.



### Kiriya Prize

2000

#### **Things That Must Not Be Forgotten: A Childhood in Wartime China**

Kwan, Michael David B Kwan

A Eurasian boy's isolated and privileged childhood in Beijing and the effect of World War II on his life and family.

2001

#### **River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze**

Hessler, Peter 915.138 H

A Peace Corps teacher's account of his two years in Fuling, a town on the Yangtze River in Sichuan province.

2002

#### **From the Land of Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey**

Khoo Thwe, Pascal 959.105 T

A young Burmese tribesman, who has been a guerilla fighter against his country's dictatorship, meets and is rescued by a Cambridge don, whom he meets while working as a waiter. He goes on to study at Cambridge University.

2005

#### **Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found**

Mehta, Suketu 915.4792 M

After a 21 year absence, the author returns to his native Bombay (Mumbai) and, as both an insider and newcomer, chronicles life in the world's third largest city.



### National Book Award

2000

#### **In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex**

Philbrick, Nathaniel 910.9164 P

The 19th century Pacific whaling industry is explored through the story of the whaleship Essex that was sunk in 1820 by an eighty ton sperm whale. This disaster inspired Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*.

2002

#### **Master of the Senate**

Caro, Robert A. 973.923 C, V3

This third volume of *The Years of Lyndon Johnson* covers Johnson's U.S. Senate career (1949-1961) where he engineered the 1957 Civil Rights Act.

2003

**Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy**

Eire, Carlos 972.9123 E

A Yale historian's memoir of his boyhood in 1950s Cuba and the dramatic change to his life when he was separated from his parents and sent to the United States after Castro took over the country.

2006

**The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl**

Egan, Timothy 978.032 E

The Great Depression's Dust Bowl catastrophe told through the lives of twelve families and their communities.



**National Book Critics Circle Award**

2000

**Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan**

Bix, Herbert P. B Hirohito

A controversial biography that presents the Japanese Emperor Hirohito as far more politically involved than popular stories portray him to be.

2001

**Boswell's Presumptuous Task: The Making of the Life of Dr. Johnson**

Sisman, Adam B Boswell

The story of the making of Boswell's *Life of Johnson* as well as a biography of its author, James Boswell.

2002

**The Power of Place**

Browne, Janet B Darwin V2

Volume II of *Charles Darwin: A Biography* focuses on the last half of Darwin's life (1858-82), including the publication of *On the Origin of Species*.

2003

**Khrushchev: The Man and His Era**

Taubman, William B Khrushchev

This first comprehensive biography of the late Soviet leader includes both political and psychological analysis.

2004

**De Kooning: An American Master**

Mark Stevens and Annalyn Swan B De Kooning

Examines the life and work of the Dutch-born abstract expressionist and also gives an account of the early twentieth century New York art world.

2005

**American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer**

Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin B Oppenheimer

This biography of Oppenheimer focuses not only on his work with the Manhattan Project but on his life before and after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

**Them: A Memoir of Parents**

Gray, Francine du Plessix Gray 974.7104 G

The story of the author's Russian émigré mother who became a famous hat designer; her father, an aristocratic Frenchman who was killed by the Nazis; and her Russian émigré stepfather who rose to the top of the Conde Nast publishing conglomerate.

**The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million**

Mendelsohn, Daniel 973.0492 M

The author searches worldwide to learn about the life and death of his great uncle and his family who were killed during the Holocaust.

2006

**James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon**

Phillips, Julie B Tiptree

Alice Sheldon assumed the persona of James Tiptree, Jr. and became a noted science fiction writer who wrote as a "man" for years before her gender was revealed.



**Pulitzer Prize**

2000

**Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II**

Dower, John W. 952.04 D

The story of the American occupation of Japan (1945-1952) and a portrait of post-war Japan's politics, society and culture.

**Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945**

Kennedy, David 973.91 K

A survey focusing on the sixteen years which encompassed the Great Depression, New Deal and World War II. (Vol. 9 of the *Oxford History of the United States*).

**Véra: (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)**

Schiff, Stacy 813.54 S

A biography of the life of writer Vladimir Nabokov's wife Vera, and her devotion to his literary career during their 52-year marriage.

2001

**Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan**

Bix, Herbert P. B Hirohito

A controversial biography that presents the Japanese Emperor Hirohito as far more politically involved than popular stories portray him to be.

**Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation**

Ellis, Joseph J. 973.4092 E

Six decisive events in the 1790s explore the personalities and politics of John Adams, Aaron Burr, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and George Washington.

**W.E.B. Du Bois: The Fight for Equality and the American Century**

Lewis, David Levering B Du Bois

The second volume of the life of the scholar and political theorist who co-founded the NAACP and was also dedicated to worldwide human rights and Pan-Africanism.

2002

**John Adams**

McCullough, David B Adams

The life of one of the Founding Fathers who later became the second president of the United States.

**The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America**

Menand, Louis 973.9 M

How Oliver Wendell Holmes, William James, Charles Sanders Pierce and John Dewey created a philosophy of pragmatism after the Civil War.

2003

**An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa 1942-1943**

Atkinson, Rick 940.5423 A

The story of the Allied invasion of North Africa where the United States Army gained experience in modern warfare.

**Master of the Senate**

Caro, Robert A. 973.923 C, V.3

This third volume of *The Years of Lyndon Johnson* covers Johnson's U.S. Senate career (1949-1961) when he engineered the 1957 Civil Rights Act.

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This first comprehensive biography of the late Soviet leader includes both political and psychological analysis.

2005

**Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001**

Coll, Steve 958.1045 C

The story of the CIA's covert wars in Afghanistan and the emergence of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

**Washington's Crossing**

Fischer, David Hackett 973.332 F

A military history of George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River in December 1776 that resulted in victories at Trenton and Princeton.

**De Kooning: An American Master**

Steven, Mark and Annalyn Swan B De Kooning

Examines the life and work of the Dutch-born abstract expressionist and also gives an account of the early twentieth century New York art world.

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**Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya**

Elkins, Caroline 967.6203 E

Documents the brutal 8-year British war against the Mau Mau independence movement which resulted in the deaths of up to 300,000 Kenyans and also the internment of 1.5 million Kikuyu, the largest ethnic group in Kenya.

2007

**The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher**

Applegate, Debby B Beecher

The charismatic preacher, abolitionist and intellectual who became involved in a national scandal.

### **The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11**

Wright, Lawrence 973. 931 W

A portrait of the terrorists who preceded 9/11 and the world they came from, and the FBI counterterrorism chief who tried to stop Al-Qaeda's threat.



### **Thomas Cook Travel Book Award**

**2000**

#### **An Unexpected Light: Travels in Afghanistan**

Elliot, Jason 915.81 E

The author's account of his trips to Afghanistan: first, in 1979 when he spent time with the mujaheddin fighting the Soviets, and ten years later as the Taliban rose to power.

**2004**

#### **American Nomads: Travels with Lost Conquistadors, Mountain Men, Cowboys, Indians, Hoboes, Truckers, and Bullriders**

(Published in the U.K. in 2003 as *Ghost Riders: Travels with American Nomads*)

Grant, Richard 917.3049 G

A British writer travels through the American Southwest, reading about the histories of earlier explorers and nomads and describing his encounters with present day nomads like truckers, hobos, rodeo cowboys and other wanderers.



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665 W. Olive Ave.  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

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Compiled by Mary Chartrain  
L-307 (July 2707)